The Indian Poultry Gazette.

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CONTENTS.

	Page.
Editorial News	... 91
Fattening Surplus Cockerels ...	... 92
This month's Egg dish	... 92
Any old thing is not just good enough ...	... 93
The Poultry Yard in Summer ...	... 93
Practical monthly advice to Poultry keepers	... 96
Sanitation on the Poultry Farm ...	... 98
The Poultry Show	... 98
Killing and Plucking Fowls	... 100
The Chicks that would not grow ...	... 102
How to become a successful fancier ...	... 104
Guard against soft eggs	... 104
? ? ? ...	... 105

EDITORIAL NEWS.

This issue finds us back in office after a spell in Darjeeling which we were beginning to feel was needed.

We have had the pleasure of visiting a number of our Club and also Gazette friend's poultry yards while on vacation and shall be writing this up for a future issue.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the temporary suspension of publication of the 1931 Year Book but at present it is hardly possible to publish same owing to the lack of demand for advertising space and readers with surplus eggs or cockerels would do well to note that this book finds its way into many corners where sales might be effected.

Applications for space or copies of this book should be made to Mr. Yule at Carmichael Court, Darjeeling before the end of June.

We note one item that might be of interest to readers with a surplus of good sized table eggs and that is that there is an unsatisfied demand for them in Darjeeling. New Laid English eggs will fetch as much as Rs. 1/12/- a dozen here and we advise readers with a surplus to get into touch with Mr. Yule.

Special attention is drawn to the advertisement of two new books, "The Sussex Fowl" and "The R. I. Red" which are the latest editions and only received from England last Mail. We have a limited number only and we would advise fanciers to indent quickly to avoid disappointment.

We still have a few copies of "The inheritance of Fecundity in Fowls" and sounder advice on breeding cannot be gained elsewhere.

Soon will come the time for sale and exchange of our surplus good quality cockerels for next year's breeding pens. Usually in July and August we receive a lot of correspondence from members wishing to purchase sell or exchange good quality breeding cockerels and we advise readers to let the world know what you have for disposal. Breeder's cards will tell the world and are the best shop window for good stock. Remember the Gazette is the paper where poultry is required and all poultry keepers looking for the goods scan its pages for their requirements when quality is wanted.

We hope to be able to publish the venue and dates of the next All India Exhibition in July when we have received replies from the committee members of the various districts where it is possible to hold it.

We hope for the sake of the Club finances that it will be held in Calcutta as the shows held there usually nearly pay for themselves and with the present hard times it does not behove us to think of risking Club funds. If the All India was held on a province where a loss was the result it would only harm the industry in the present times and cannot be thought of.

The Southern India Poultry Association holds its show on June 6th at Coonoor in conjunution with the Annual flower show and we hope to see some of the exhibits at our later shows as we hear quality is good in South India.

The "Goschen" cup which is one of the Club's finest trophies has been put back in its box uncompeted for now for 2 seasons and Madras fanciers would do well to note and send their birds along. If birds can come from as far as Rangoon to compete surely South Indian Birds can travel the shorter distance easily. Birds came from England last year, arrived in Calcutta on the actual show date, competed and won handsomely. Now then you fanciers what about it. For long distance fanciers who do not know, you only pay freight on stock one way. The Club arranges for free return freight to unsold exhibits.

At the time of going to press we have great pleasure in announcing the news that the Club is to receive another cup to replace the Mission Poultry Farm Cup won out right.

This cup has been presented by Lady Ezra and will be called the Lady Ezra Challange Cup for the best Minorca in the Show All-India and Provincial Closed and for Club members only.

We hope to be able to print this cup in the July Gazette.

FATTENING SURPLUS COCKERELS.

By M. Douglas Gordon.

The sooner the cockerels are separated from the pullets the sooner they will be ready for table, and the better birds they will be when ready. Many people allow them to run about with the pullets until a few weeks before they are to be killed, and then endeavour to fatten them up in a fortnight or so; but this is a great mistake, for neither the food they eat nor the mode of life they follow is conducive to the growth of flesh. So long as they are with the pullets they receive hard grain and mash calculated to make bone, and they take much exercise and grow hard and muscular. This would be excellent if they were all future breeders, but with cockerels that are destined for the table it is a sheer waste of food and time. With these latter the great aim should be to produce much succulent flesh and a minimum of bone in the shortest possible time; and the shortest cut to this goal is to remove the cockerels as soon as they can be distinguished and begin feeding them for the table straight away.

They should be put into fattening pens in fairly small batches, the actual number depending, of course, on the age of the chickens. There must be enough together for them to be able to keep each other warm at night, for if they are allowed to huddle and feel chilled they will certainly not make good progress. With some breeds it is possible to pick out the males before weanning time, and in this case it will be necessary to give the little cockerels a hover for a time. It is not advisable, however, to allow them to remain together in large numbers once they are big enough to keep themselves warm, for if there are too many in a run there will be a certain number of originally good birds that will go to the wall, simply because they are bullied and kept from the food troughs.

The pens should be limited, as much exercise will hinder the fattening process, but they should not be unduly small or the birds will go off their food. The idea should be first of all to feed them well and allow enough exercise for them to maintain healthy appetities, and then for the last fortnight to confine them in either very small pens, or, still better, fattening coops, and finish them off with special feeding. But this final process should not be begun until a week or two before they are due to be killed, as there is a distinct limit to how much rich feeding and lack of exercise they can stand without "going back." This is most decidedly a finishing-off process, not the whole scheme of fattening as so many people seem to imagine. The birds must come to the coops in the right physical state to benefit by this final touch, and whether or not they are in the right state depends on the treatment they have received in previous months.

The fattening of these cockerels can be compared to the production of good fruit. You may grow a fine plum and then put it in the sun to ripen; but if it had not developed properly when on the tree no amount of ripening would make it a good fruit. Ripening could not add size to it. Thus with table birds, the main growth must be made in the pens, and the birds must enter the coops wellfleshed and in a fit state to take full advantage of the fattening process.

The birds that come to the fattening coops straight from ranging with the pullets will not only be hard and musculuar, but will also be lean, for they use up all surplus food for making energy. If they are cooped up and fed well they will lay up a layer of fat; but that is not what is required. A properly fattened table bird is tenderer and more succulent than a lean one, not because it has a layer of fat, but because the lean meat is impregnated with fat. A fat bird has fat in the body tissues where the lean bird has water. When the lean bird is cooked the water dries up and the flesh becomes hard; when the fat bird is cooked the fat melts and softens the flesh, making it juicy and succlent.

This enviable condition is not attained in a hasty finishing-off process. It is the result of careful feeding. In fact, birds that have been earefully fed for table from the time they left the hover often require no finishing off.

It is qnite easy to tell the sex of chickens when they leave the hover. In fact, in the case of heavy breeds it is considerably easier then than a few weeks later. And to remove them at this age not only lessens the time required for fattening them but also does away with the necessity for disturbing the pullets again. They can be put in the colony houses in the proper numbers and left in peace. Of course, if the cockerels are removed at this early age it will still be necessary to feed them fairly frequently, unless they have been dry-mashers, in which case it will have to be decided whether or not they shall continue to have dry mash.

Some people find that to keep dry mash before their fattening cockerels results in better birds; but in other cases it is found that they eat so much dry mâsh that they have no appetite for the wet. This, of course, will not do. They must eat wet mash, preferably three times a day; so if they insist on eating a great deal of dry mash and have no appetite for the wet, the hoppers should either be taken away or only opened for a short period each day. Be careful, however, to see that there is no hunger-striking; if they have been reared on dry mash and will not eat the wet they must be attracted, not forced, to it. They can generally be attracted to a change of mash if it is lightly

THIS MONTH'S EGG DISH.

***Ingredients:*—2 eggs, 2 small tomatoes, 1 ounce butter, A little milk, pepper and salt.**

***Method:*—Melt butter in sausepan, put in tomatoes out in pieces, add pepper and salt and stew until tender. Beat the eggs with the milk and add to the stewed tomatoes, stir over gentle heat until set. (On no account must it boil.) Serve very hot on creamed spinach or mashed potatoes to which milk and butter has been added.**

sprinkled with some such attractive substance as oyster-shell, fish-meal, or grain after it has been put in the troughs. Try the new food in the early morning when the birds are really hungry. But do not allow them to starve themselves while they are learning.

The mash should be made of meals calculated to produce plumpness, but the ration should not be unduly concentrated until the final finishing-off process. Just what to give to a particular batch of cockerels depends, of course, on their age when the fattening is commenced; but it should be remembered that if they are fed on very rich foods for a protracted period they will get livery and out-of-sorts and be unable to make full use of their food owing to indigestion. Besides, it is unnecessarily expensive to supply much rich food all the time if one begins as soon as they are weaned. Give plenty of good nourishing mash, no grain unless it is desired to give a fillip to their appetities, keep a constant supply of fresh water in the pens, and do not forget the grit and green food. In this way healthy appetities should be maintained.

There is a great art in fattening, for naturally one does not want to spoil the birds' appetities by over-feeding, yet, at the same time, one does not want them to get really hungry and go round scratching and hunting for food. Endeavour to feed them so that they go to sleep after each meal, and are yet ready for the next one when it comes. Provide shade so that they can sleep in comfort in the pens, for it is this sleeping after eating that is so good for fattening birds. Do not, however, shade all the pen; allow them the choice of sun or shade as they feel disposed.

ANY OLD THING IS NOT JUST GOOD ENOUGH.

Little chicks, and big ones, too, need plenty of good, clean water to drink. A good drink is really about the first thing that a little chick does need.

Most people get along by using shallow pans, or the tin lids of baking-powder cans, etc. These, of course, answer the purpose, and possess the quality of being shallow, which is necessary. Otherwise, the little chicks might fall in and soon drown. These small pans will hold only a small amount of water, and when the sun is bright the water is soon evaporated, and many times they are not filled again as soon as they should be.

On hot days chickens thus suffer greatly by not having plenty of water to drink. Even if the pans are filled as soon as dry, they are very objectionable, and it takes an endless lot of time to keep them all filled; and almost all know what it is to have to feed, water and care for a flock of chickens along with all the other work that must be done on farms.

As might be expected, there are numerous kinds and styles of sanitary poultry drinking fountains made and advertised. The most of them are good, and their use is preferable to the continual care of filling watering-pans where fountains are not used.

They may not all look alike, and may not be all painted the same colour, but the principle upon which the most of them are made is the same, and that principle can be made use of by farmer's wife, just as well as by the maker of patent drinking fountains, for no Government has ever yet given any person the exclusive right to make use of the law of gravitation.

Here is the way to make a drinking fountain in about two minutes at home. Take one of those shallow pans and a big bottle, or a jug; fill the bottle full of water, and invert it over the pan. The water will run out into the pan until the mouth of the bottle is covered, when it will stop. That is your drinking fountain.

As long as your bottle or jug is air-tight, no water will run out as long as the mouth of the bottle or jug is under water. As soon as the water is lowered in the pan, more will run out of the bottle to keep the mouth covered.

Try it, and see how perfectly it works. Large bottles say, half-gallon sizes—are very handy to use, for they will hold water enough to last for quite a while, and as they are transparent, it only requires a glance to tell when they need refilling. two or three of these waterers placed about the poultry yard will solve the water fountain question. It is a good plan to tie strings to the bottles, to keep them from being knocked over.

NEW WORLD'S RECORD.

The records of laying hens go up and up. We remember when the announcement that a hen had laid over two hundred eggs in twelve consecutive months was viewed with considerable suspicion, but since that time authenticated records have gone from two hundred eggs to two hundred and fifty eggs, and then to three hundred eggs and then more. In the laying competition pens of five or ten birds have boosted the world's record time after time. Now comes a pen of five White Leghorns which laid fifteen hundred and eighty-nine eggs in three hundred and sixty-one consecutive days, in an Illinois laying contest, an average of three hundred and eighteen eggs per hen, which we understand establishes a new world's record for five bird pens. We wonder where this record breaking business is going to stop.—"Poultry Herald."

THE POULTRY YARD IN SUMMER.

Maintaining a Clean Bill of Health during Hot Spells—Keeping up the Egg Supply.

Poultry—perhaps of all created things—are the least adapted by Nature to withstand great changes of temperature. A great many wild birds seek to even things up by going away to other shores, so that they enjoy much the same temperature all the year round.

On the show field on a hot day the birds in the hotter marquees suffer a good deal by reason of their physical disability to accommodate themselves to the rapid changes of temperature. Something can, however, be done for poultry of all kinds to make their condition better and so prolong their period of produtiveness.

To take the stock in suburban or backyard runs first, shelter from the sun is the most important.

A VENTILATION DEVICE.

A device I have recommended before in my writings is that of having an aperture in the back wall of the house just under the eave at its highest point.

If, when constructing a house, a gap is left the whole length, say 6 to 8 incres in depth just under the eaves, this can be closed by a hinged shutter. This shutter should be hinged on its lower side, so that when the shutter is open *inwards* it directs the air on to the under side of the roof, and there is a clear draught right through from eave to eave or eave to ridge as the case might be.

When, however, the house has not been constructed in this way, holes can be cut in the back, and these again covered by the hinged board on the *inside*, so that they will close up for winter and direct the air currents, as in the other case, in the summer time.

The scratching shed need not be treated so, but a combined house and shed and any where the birds sleep would be better for being treated in this way.

MUSLIN SCREENS—SPRINKLING TO REDUCE TEMPERATURE.

White calico or muslin screens put up in the same way as sun blinds are also useful. They can be hung on frames and be hinged at the top and propped well away from the house at the bottom, almost at right angles to it, or they can be hung with hooks and eyes like the shopkeepers' sun blinds.

In addition to this they can in all cases be wetted by sprinkling with water from a watering can or syringe.

To well spray or water all the walks or sides of the buildings is also an excellent plan, and reduces the temperature considerably.

I have before alluded to the wonderfully freshing and vivifying effect of using weak solutions of permanganate of potash in this way. This is added to the water in sufficient quantities to make a nice bright pink solution, and very few grains are needed for the purpose, so that it is by no means expensive.

THE QUESTION OF FEEDING.

In the matter of feeding, the birds always enjoy anything extra in the way of salads—*i.e.*, green food. Lettuce particularly they are extremely fond of, and this is often available for suburban poultry.

Failing this, germinated wheat or oats or rape seed are liked, and do not need much in the way of preparation, and they are very beneficial.

It would not hurt at all to give the grain in this way, but, of course, in troughs.

In giving soft food care should be taken not to overfeed; it is particularly needful to feed with the weather, keeping the birds sharp after their food and never leaving any in the troughs if soft food is given.

On cooler days they will take more than others, and it is due to this that a fixed ration becomes impossible for the best results.

INERTIA IN HOT LAYING HOUSES.

Many of the large laying houses, so plentifully fronted with glass, become veritable ovens at this time of the year, specially when such glass cannot be taken out. Such houses as these produce an inertia and apathy that are not conducive to a good egg supply.

Something can, however, be done by making wire-netting doors to hinge inside the usual doors, and should there be doors at each end of the building a pleasant draught will be the result, and the inside of the building will be cooler than the outside, a condition the birds will very quickly appreciate.

No notes on Summer in the poultry yard would be complete without the mentioning of the necessity for *a good water supply*. One wishes to emphasise the fact that a vessel *half* full of water is of little value to fowls, as they cannot drink below a certain level. The fact that a water vessel does dry up is due more to evaporation than the fact that the birds have actually drunk the water.

The water should also be kept as cool as possible. A piece of "lino" hung over so that the ends dip in the water and some of the water syphons up and keeps the lino or muslin wet will help to keep the water vessel cool by evaporation.

Economy may suggest the continuing of maize throughout the summer, but it is not an ideal summer food. Wheat and dari are better; buckwheat one cannot risk, as most birds refuse it when given for the first time and go off laying by loss of condition.

Meat or fish meal should also be kept to as low as possible.

THE TONIC EFFECT OF EPSOM SALTS.

In the way of medicines or tonics to make the birds eat more, their use is perhaps questionable in the very hot weather. What is of use, excepting for the fact that it is so generally abused, is either Epsom or Glauber's salts. By being abused, I mean as to the actual dose that is given.

Epsom or Glauber's, given in the summer, can be most useful if given in extremely small doses, say, one tablespoonful to 2 gallons of drinking water, or in cases where smaller lots are required, one teaspoonful to a quart of drinking water. All one desires, is that the water should be very faintly saline, scarcely perceptible to the taste.

Given in this way, its effect on the appetite is most marked, and it is free from the objections there are to an astringent iron tonic at this time of the year. Iron given too freely usually carries a crop of ovarian troubles in its train.

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PRACTICAL MONTHLY ADVICE TO POULTRY KEEPERS.

Feeding and accommodation of growing Stock.

Always remember that though you may read the soundest of advice from books with regard to the rearing of growing stock the last word is with yourself as your local conditions may not be similar to those of the writer of the book and a little common sense is likely to have a big effect on the grown bird.

Now is the time when culling the useless ones should begin. If you have a surplus of cockerels advertise them if they are worth it if not put them in the pot. Weakling pullets will not pay you to keep feeding. You can feed all the vitamins and special foods possible to a cart horse but that will never make a Derby winner of it.

Don't worry at the cost of feeding because if you do this will often end in your buying inferior foods and inferior foods mean drop in egg production, health of the stock and subsequent loss of condition. Buy the best to get the best results, eight annas extra per maund of wheat may mean an extra 20 eggs being laid as a result of the better quality of food.

Another important item with the growing stock. As they grow you need more room for them round the hopper. Where 20 chicks could get round a hopper now they are growing up only 10 can find room round it now.

Under feeding will have a big say in the production of your pullets once they start to lay. An underfed growing pullet will never lay big eggs and it will never be a record breaker for numbers as well.

In just the same way an overfer bird will not be a good layer, it will be lazy, listless and liable to lay shell-less eggs.

Feed right from birth to death is the motto for good production.

Don't make the mistake of too sudden changes in feeding especially when pullets are on the point of laying. This may have a very disasterous effect on them. If it absolutely necessary to change a ration do it very gently so that they do not notice it unless you want to throw them into a moult then it can be done by a more sudden change.

As the pullets will now be on the point of going to their eventual laying quarters do not put pullets of various ages together as the younger ones usually get bullied by the bigger ones, do not get their right amount of food and suffer in consequence.

During the next few months the birds will be drinkking much more than in the cold weather. See the water vessels are always kept filled with clean cool fresh water and placed in a shady place.

It is not necessary or is it advisable to feed all the green food a bird will eat as this tends to fill the crop up with more than the requirements of this part of the feed, satisfies the appetite and the consumption of the other parts of the daily menu is lessened and in consequence they do not get the nourishment they need.

It is also unnecessary to go in for the mash with the number of ingredients as don't forget at the British laying tests usually the mash does not contain more than 4—5 ingredients and that is the mash that records are made on.

For the pullets that are starting to lay now do not expect the 2½ oz. egg right from the first. Give them a few weeks to get into stride and above all do not force. If later you want to force wait until they are giving you the big egg than do it within reason or you will break down their system and perhaps lose good birds.

To check a bird from coming on too quick do not touch the food in any way but shift from house to house, this is by far the safest way as if you alter the ration you might do a lot of damage.

Remember the youngsters coming on to lay for the first time will be a bit on the nervous side and it harassed may break their eggs, eating a broken egg generally follows and once a bird becomes an egg eater she is unsafe to be included with the other unaffected ones.

Egg eating is usually contracted when the pullets are starting their laying career and an egg eater is better dead than alive.

Make sure egg Boxes and nests have a good soft layer of straw or hay in them to prevent breaking of eggs. Change the straw regularly to prevent lice and other pests breeding in the nests. Burn all used straw.

Do not forget to ask the Indian Poultry Club for assistance with your birds if you need it and do not be frightened that you will be laughed at for asking an apparently silly question. The Club is out to assist you.

Many useful hints will be found in July Monthly Advice so register for your copy early.

BEWARE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

Weather and temperature are important matters so far as Poultry are concerned.

All Poultry are susceptible to changes of weather and temperature.

Many fine birds have been lost through these two points being ignored or overlooked.

Whichever it be it behoves all Poultry keepers to give this serious consideration especially with the Nor Western season here and the coming of the rains with the vast differences in temperature and dampness of the Monsoons.

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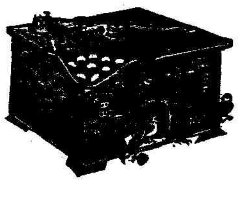

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12.

SANITATION ON THE POULTRY FARM.

Cleanse and Disinfected Regularly.

CLEANSE AND DISINFECT REGULARLY.

Years ago disinfectants were dear and, in addition, little was known about their use. In recent years disinfectants have been greatly improved in efficiency and have been lowered in cost. They have been produced from several sources. I will roughly classify them as to the source of their origin as follows: vegetable, mineral, chemical and fire. To the first group belong a few combinations that are beneficial to the respiratory organs of the birds when used as a spray. Pine tar belongs to this group. Quantities have been burned in poultry buildings at night. The vapour or smoke has been helpful in arresting and healing throat and lung diseases of poultry. The action of this group of disinfectants is not powerful. It is doubtful that germs can be utterly destroyed by the use of disinfectants derived from vegetable sources.

TAR PREPARATIONS COMMENDED.

The mineral group is far more widely used, and is effective as an important part of the equipment of the modern poultry farm. To this group belongs crude paraffin, napthaline, flakes, creosote and the various more refined disinfectants that are derived from coal tar. I have used many of these as germicides and to destroy the small vermin such as lice and mites which affect poultry. Years ago I paid as much as per gallon for a disinfectant derived from coal tar. In later years I have found other brands that cost less were equally effective. I have bought them by the barrel and used them freely. Various compounds from this source, creosote especially, are very effective in fighting vermin such as lice and mites. Painting roosts, cracks and roost boards will greatly help. By all means use disinfectants derived from coal tar. They will help in four sanitation programme.

Although not strictly a disinfectant, but a very valuable ally in sanitation, is a scattering of peat moss on the droppings board. It absorbs the liquids, retains the ammonia and saves hours of time in cleaning droppings in cold weather. When droppings are frozen to boards covered with sand only, they are hard to remove. Peat moss solves this, and will make the manure many times more valuable as a fertiliser. It will sweeten the air, and the cost is almost negligible. Used in this way, a bale of peat will go a long way. Lime, in various forms I have used in the same way, but much prefer peat.

THE SUN IS THE BEST OF ALL.

The sun's rays are, of course, extremely valuable as a germ killer and disinfectant. During warm weather you can get them directly. During cold weather you can have full benefit of the violet ray if you will use the better glass substitutes, such as Vita Glass, in place of ordinary window glass. Modern buildings are using it and older houses should be renovated.

LIME AND CARBOLIC.

To the chemical group belongs some very valuable disinfectant and deodourisers. I used crude carbolic acid crystals years ago in my whitewash. To-day you can buy whitewash material that incorporates carbolic in the mixture. Lime belongs in the mineral group, and should have been mentioned there. All poultry buildings should be whitewashed, at least twice a year. Make a thorough job of it, doing walls, ceilings and floors. Powerful new disinfectants in the chemical group are used as sprays, and the easiest way to use them is to buy a good compressed air sprayer. Not only will the chlorine gas they liberate destroy germs, it will also help prevent colds and diphtheria if the birds are sprayed at night when roosting. Other and more powerful sprays have been placed on the market that will both disinfect and kill the minute germs that harass and worry the poultry-keeper.

The successful poultryman of to-day is the one who is thorough and uses every help to sanitation. He uses the better mineral and chemical disinfectants all throuih the year. He sweetens the atmosphere of his houses by using sunlight in summer and in winter by the use of a glass substitute that admits the violet rays. He makes a thorough job of the bi-annual houses cleaning. Not only are his buildings disinfected, but his hoppers, nests, droppings boards and floors. Proper disinfection throughout the year will prevent trouble among the birds and will sabe large sums. In case any disease has existed or the presence of any germs are suspected, it is an utter impossibility to be too thorouyh in the methods you adopt to stop it.

Large and small flocks need proper feeding and proper care. These in themselves are not enough to insure success. You must make your buildings and your plant absolutely sanitary. This can only be done through the use of good disinfectants and cleanliness.

THE POULTRY SHOW.

By Bubble De Squeak.

Spring was in the air. Tripping gaily down the forested glens of Lindsay Street, who should I meet but Reggie Nocash, the unbeaten champion billiard marker for All-India. A couple of hens peeping from beneath his arms viewed me with wonder.

"Why, Bubbles, you old freak, you gave me the fright of my life in that brown plus-four suit of yours. I thought that it was a wild teddy bear coming down the road. Topping rig-out, really topping. He—he—he. Can't play golf of course—absolutely no idea. He—he—he."

"So you are out of jail once more, Reggie. Who has lost the hens this time?"

"Nobody, dear boy, nobody. These are my own strain."

"Now that you mention it, I can see the resemblance. Taking them for a stroll?"

"We are all going to the show. Come on, Bubbles, when they see you they will say 'Here comes a prize bird' and will give you a medal. He-he."

It was a long walk to the poultry show but we eventually reached there. Reggie disappeared into the hidden mysteries of the "Exhibitors entrance" and I was having a look through a crack in the enclosure hoarding when two remarkably pretty young ladies ran out and grabbed me by the arms.

"Lord Big-boy! Darling, Lord Bigboy" said one giving me a wonderful strawberry smile "How deliciously sweet of you to come all this way to judge our exhibits. What a charming man you must be. By the way, lordie, when you are doing your judging stuff you won't forget my darling little pullet, will you? Here it is in the programme—my name is Flossie Fairyfeet."

"Isn't he a dear, Flossie, and a real live lord, too" said the other. "Just look at his sweet little monocle, and that dinky little squint of his. You won't forget my lovely little bantam, will you, ducky? I am Gertie Madcap."

"Really, I say. Er—now look here—."

"Now then, Lord Big-boy, that just won't do. We know exactly what you are going to say, but let us get the poultry show over, first. This way, your nobleness Start the band up, somebody, please."

To the very badly played "See the conquering hero comes" I was introduced to the other two judges. Captain Stern was very thin and very tall. Mrs. Carnera was very stout and a real man-eater who just breathed poultry. Then came the committee, the emergency committee, the stewards, and last, but not least, the manager of the bar.

"I think that we had better start, your lordship?"

"Er-hum" I said in my best lordly manner "We will start with the pullets."

"Indeed we shall do nothing of the sort" growled Mrs. Carnera "The Anconas come first."

"Yes, yes, of course" said the Captain "but Lord Big-boy has specially asked for pullets, so we will have pullets."

Flossie Fairyfeets pullet was the nearest approach to a feathered inspect that I have ever seen.

"Number nine wins the cup" I said.

"Good heavens" spluttered Mrs. Carnera, steadying herself against a hen-coup.

"Really, Lord Big-boy."

"Look at the legs" yelled Mrs. Carnera.

"I've been looking at them for a long time, Mrs. Carnera" I replied.

"And what might your opinion be of them?" she asked, sourly.

"I think that that bird has the finest legs at the show, today."

"Alright" said Mrs. Carnera, magnanimously "We won't start the afternoon with a quarrel."

"Number nine wins" announced the Captain.

There was a wave of angry comment from the exhibitors, followed by mutterings of dissent from the Fowls."

"Now we shall have the Anconas" said Mrs. Carnera with a menecing beam.

"We will have the bantams, next" I said, with an air of finality.

"What? But Lord Big-boy."

"Really, your lordship."

"I insist on bantams, otherwise I shall adjourn for a beer."

"Alright, bantams next."

"Some good birds here, your lordship. Take some judging" said Mrs. Carnera.

"Splendid birds, Mrs. Carnera, splendid" said the Captain, admiringly "Look at that golden spangle, and that rose-comb, and that pencilled Hamburg and that."

Gertie Madcaps bantam reminded me of a pomeranian.

"Number five wins" I said.

"Number what?" howled Mrs. Carnera "I wish you were my husband?"

"I tremble at the thought, Mrs. Carnera."

"But, your lordship, you really can't be serious."

"Well, Lord Big-boy" said the acid Mrs. Carnera folding her leg-of-mutton arms "If you want to know the truth, I was just going to suggest that that bird be thrown out."

"Horrible looking bantam, your lordship, horrible."

"Number five wins."

"Well, your lordship, we know that you are the greatest authority on poultry this side of Suez and you must have good reasons for giving that bird the prize."

"I have, indeed, very good reasons."

"And might I ask what they are? asked Mrs. Carnera.

Just then there was a violent commotion at the entrance gate. Clouds of dust flew into the air, and when the tornado had subsided a red faced, muscle-bound giant emerged grasping a very unhealthy looking stick of great weight. As the gentleman approached he appeared to be on the verge of apoplexy.

"Bring me the man who says that he is Lord Big-boy" he thundered.

"I think that I shall be off now, folks, its becoming a trifle warmish."

What a scene! Judges, spectators, exhibitors, hens, cocks, ducks, geese, hen-pens, programmes and incubators rose into the air in the twinkling of an eye. Fortunately I am a good runner.

"Catch him" yelled Mrs. Carnera.

"Let me get hold of him" roared Lord Big-boy.

"After him" cried the crowd.

I ran. The crowd followed. Through the turnstile, down the road, into Government House, across Old Courthouse Street, and then remembering King Charles, I clammered up a tall tree in Blackburn Lane just as the crowd were overtaking me.

I tore my beautiful plus-fours, but believe me it was worth it.

KILLING AND PLUCKING FOWLS.

The Simplest and Easiest Method.

The general, and perhaps the best, method, of killing fowls is by dislocation of the neck. For the beginner or those not proficient in the art, old hens ought to be used, as young fowls and chickens are far more difficult to pluck without tearing and disfiguring the carcase.

The proper way to start is to grip the legs and ends of wings in the left hand, with the fowl lying back uppermost. With the right hand grip the head, placing the first and second fingers on either side of the neck near the head, with the crown of the fowl's head in the palm.

Stretch the neck to its fullest length, shutting your hand tightly on the head; then, with an upward turn, the neck will break just where it joins the head. Then at once, and before the muscular action ceases, start *plucking all the feathers from the back, half-way down* the neck, right up to the root of the tail. Then draw flight feathers from wings. Having done this, turn the fowl over, and with the left hand tightly grip both wings under back, and at the same time grasp the neck, taking care to keep the feet held tightly by placing them under your left arm.

If this is properly performed, the skin is drawn tightly all over breast; firmly catch a few feathers between thumb and first finger, taking care not to grip the fluff of other than the feathers you wish to draw; they ought to come off nicely and without affecting the skin.

When plucking adult fowls, clean off all feathers and stubs as you proceed, as far as possible, but greater care must be exercised in plucking chickens, and a good plan to adopt is to remove only the full-grown feathers first; then go over the carcase again with a stubbing-knife, *namely "a pocket-knife with a blunt blade."* Always remember to starve fowls before killing, and to withdraw bowels before tying down.

BREEDS AND SOIL.

A Matter that needs Consideration.

As egg-producers on clay or heavy soil or exposed positions Andalusians, Brahmas, Cochins, Game, Langshans, Leghorns, Minorcas, Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes will be found to do the best, and *most of these will bear confinement well; but preference* should be given to the Andalusians, Leghorns, Minorcas, Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes.

The breeds suited only to rich, dry soil and sheltered positions are Dorkings, Crebe Coeurs, Houdans, Le Fleche Polands and Spanish. Houdans, being very hardy, will do just as well on poorer soil and in more exposed situations. All stand confinement well, but the Dorkings will do better with fair range, and can stand cold, bracing air, but will not thrive on a damp, cold soil.

With a limited space at demand, and a large supply of eggs required, it would be best to celect one of the non-sitting, varieties, such as Andalusians, Leghorns, Minorcas, Houdans.

A Good Example.

No one ever saw a pessimistic hen. No one ever heard of one starving to death as she camped around in a general gabfeast, waiting for the worms to come to the surface. No one ever heard a hen cackle because of hard times. She saves her breath for digging, and she cackles only when she has laid an egg.

TIPS FOR TYROS.

The Novice should

Be ever-willing to learn from and listen to more experienced poultry-keepers.

Go about with his eyes open and never be afraid of asking advice when in doubt.

Not expect a guaranteed laying pullet for five shillings. Remember that it costs more than that amount to rear a bird to maturity.

If his hens do not lay, see if his methods are to blame. For many blame the birds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

I have just heard of the following treatment for the *Ranikhet disease and as many of us have* had the misfortune to suffer from the effects of this pest which so far has been regarded as incurable I wish to publish the information for what it is worth.

I believe the proved results were quite satisfactory in about 30 cases the cure being practically cent. per cent.

Treatment.—One tablespoonfull of phenyle in a quart bottle of water dose. One teaspoonful of the mixture to each affected bird. Only one dose is, I believe, necessary and after treatment the birds should be given 2 pills thrice daily of the following. Ground chillies ½ part, ground ginger ½ part, wheat meal 1 part. If necessary a tonic such as cod-liver-oil may be given.

According to what I hear no evil effects are noticible when the birds are well again (after about 3-4 days) The treatment if it is all that it should be is a blessing to all and I should really be glad to hear what results are obtained by poultry keepers who may try it.

Yours faithfully,

L. SHERRARD SMITH,

Sherfield, Simla.

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White Leghorns.

The finest stock available in England, landed 1st October 1930.'

Cockerel whose dam and sire's dam laid 525/528 eggs in 24 months, heading a pen of 10 hens with records of 270/288 eggs in 12 months.

Eggs (2 ozs. and over)

Rs. **18**/- per dozen.

Mrs. R. POWELL,
Kanchrapara, E. B. Rly.

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BREEDER'S CARD.

My recently imported LIGHT SUSSEX won at the All-India, January, 1931, Cup for best Sussex in show, also one special, three firsts and one second. Eggs Rs. **10**/- per half dozen.

My pen of WHITE LEGHORNS is headed by a cock whose sire's dam laid 322 eggs in twelve months. Eggs Rs. **12**/- per dozen.

K. D. GARRISON,
Akola Berar, C. P.

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SOUTH INDIAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

Yearly subscription Rs. 3. Two poultry shows per annum. Strong working Committee. Expert advice given, post mortem examinations undertaken at nominal charge, members only. Further particulars from Hony. Secy, S.I.P.A., Aruvankadu, Nilgiris.

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Nos. 1 and 2.

No. 1 Cures Cholera and green Diarrhoea.

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Full instructions with each box. 48 Pills in a box, Re. 1. When ordering write name and address distinctly.

Pills for Turkey chicks during their infancy to pull them through their infant ailments.

Apply A. G. Roberts,
3-B, Museum Road, Bangalore.

2.

THE CHICKS THAT WOULD NOT GROW.

By Wayfarer.

A neighbour of mine hatched out some Desi Chicks in the early part of the year and now and then when I asked how they were getting on I got the answer, 'Oh Fine thanks!'

After about two months the answer I got one day was that they did not seem to get on as well and would not grow, they seemed to be sick and though they got lots to eat they just would'nt grow and wandered around as if dazed.

I took a walk round to the house of my friend and at her request had a look at these chicks that would not grow.

They were about the size of 1 month chicks, had a drooping be-draggled air and seemed to be entirely fed up with life.

As I stood looking at them the lady owner said why do you gaze at them as if they were miles away. "I tell you they do not grow".

I hastily gathered my wit about me for though I did not say so I had been thinking of the life these unfortunate things had led.

Recalled to the stern facts of chicken life by the lady I suggested a few things rapidly and in the end the lady said I know what to do and before I had rightly gathered the meaning of it all the hen and her chicks were in the course of transport to my place with a note that as she could not make them grow I could try my hand on them and see what I could do with them.

Being thus landed through taking I proceeded to reverse her proceedure. She had the chicks and the mother hen in a tiny coop about 18 inches by 18 inches, had fed them on Bajra and Bajra only without mash or green food and had kept the tiny coop on her back verandah with a faint sprinkling of ashes under it.

On their arrival I gave them all a dust over with insect powder, cut the chicks wings and tails which had grown abnormally, placed them in a portable wire coop six feet by five on doob grass and gave them a feed of my dog's food of rice and boiled meat. I thought perhaps the hen had mis-handled them but she turned out to be the most clever and attentive mother one could wish for.

They now got the oridnary foods chickens usually get and every morning a helping from the dog's food and now and then I gave them white ants.

They got an ash bath and also two or three buckets of earth were emptied in their run to afford them scratching amusement. Ample green food was given them and every evening they had an hour or so loose in my compound to look for insects and enjoy themselves.

Simple enough treatment! But they came on like a house on fire, after two months I handed them back to their owner and they were as full of life as one could wish to see. True they were small but they were desi and would never be big fowls but they had an interest in life and were able to manage for themselves.

Had I not have taken them they would have assuredly died a lingering death. This is how the want of a little knowledge that a four anna book would have supplied destroys the life of chicks and I much fear it is how many purchaser's who mean well injure the eggs and chicks of well known sellers and then throw the blame on the seller for weak and inferior stock when all the time it is the purchaser's own fault for not knowing how to rear the chicks when he gets them.

This lady did not mean to be cruel it was purely her lack of knowledge.

Birds may fear sudden death but little, one second it is there then it is passed as though it had never been and the others will chirp and feed as if such an accident had not occured but to be slowly starved to death is another thing and is very much more cruel.

Some of these chicks by virtue of strong constitutions may have lived but they would have always been undersized, rickety, useless things that could neither live well, look well, or breed well, would be the first to be sick, and the last to get well, always a trouble when so small an amount of care and judgement would have made them strong healthy fowls.

True they were only Desi but had they been champions from champions they would have fared no better for their owner though quite kindhearted did not know young chicks are just like young children in that the greater the variety (within healthful limits) of food, exercise and outlook they get the better they grow and the better they do in every way.

Some things they must have. I do not believe in pampering chicks, I never had the money, time or inclination to do so. The saying "fetch them up hardy" is all not if it means depriving them of the necessities of life but fetch them up sanely, this is the golden rule, it merely means think a bit and no more.

Chicks need plain nourishing food, food to form blood and bone, muscle and tissue, variety in food so as to afford all the properties to from the same, space to run about and take exercise and strengthen their little bodies, to be able to enjoy the sunlight and air, scratching material in which to clean themselves and the hunt for food in the scratching litter gives ever increasing enjoyment to them, and fits them for their grown up life besides being a playroom for them.

These are the factors that go to make the healthy bird. It matters not if they are Desi or champions their upbringing should be the same and the owners motto should be the best of everything then your chicks will grow up and be a credit to you.

Be they destined for the pot, for egg laying or the show bench they are but little trouble to bring up and they repay amply by being so very interesting too. They grow so quickly, develop so many individual characteristics that they are so amusing to watch and they respond so readily to the least care so rapidly.

IMPORTED THIS YEAR.

Light Sussex. Settings from Winner Harper Adams Trials. 1st Prize, England.

Rs. 20/- per dozen.

White Orpingtons. 1st Prize. From Rs. 30- a Trio. Settings Rs. 16/- per dozen.

Cockerels from these two record strains Rs. 20/- each. (8 months old.)

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JERSEY BLACK GIANTS.

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Pullets and Cockerels available.

Standard weights.

Cock 12 to 13 lbs. approx.
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Settings of eggs available from my Prize Winning Birds which won highest honours at 1931 All India Poultry Exhibition.

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White-Leghorns.—Imported stock mated to progeny of Imported stock Winners at this year's All India

1st Pen ... Rs. 18/- per sitting of 15
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White Runner Ducks.—Imported stock mated to 1st Generation from Imported stock winners of 2 challenge cups and 2 open specials at this year's All India,

1st Pen ... Rs. 15/- per sitting
2nd Pen ... Rs. 12/8/- „ „

Chicks and ducklings.—For the information of my patrons I have, owing to poor service of the Railways in offering quick despatch decided not to send out day old chicks this year to distances of over 200 miles as last season mortality was high owing to delayed delivery. I am still however sending out from 21 days upwards and orders will be undertaken in strick rotation.

Despatch from 1st March onward.

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WHITE LEGHORNS—300 egg Tancred strain.

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A £ 5 PRIZE.

Maintain the stamina and quality of "Sperrin" starains by keeping them pure. We offer each year a cockeral value £ 5 as special for best bird at All India show bred in India from our strains, with no outcrossing. If you cannot import, then enquire conditions and purchase eggs from those who have hour imported stock. Geo. Howard.

Conditions under which special prize value £5 will be granted by Mr. Howard. Sperrin Poultry Farm, Langley, Hitchin.

(a) Cockerel value £ 5 to be given to exhibitor owning the bird judged to be the Best Bird exhibited at the All India Poultry Show and which has been bred in India from pure 'Sperrin" strains, *i.e.* where both sire and dam are pure Sperrin birds.

(b) Exhibitors to notify on their entry forms to the Show Secretary any bird that is eligible for this award.

(c) The cockerel will be sent out to India the following season in time for the following All India Show and must be entered for that show by the winner.

(d) Winner to name breed required, and need not necessarily be same breed as that of bird that won, provided breed required is one that is stocked by the "Sperrin" Poultry Farm.

(e) All expenses to Indian port will be paid by donor. Collection and onward charges from Port to be paid by winner.

(f) The value of cockerel (£ 5) is that of bird delivered at Indian port, and will be of similar grade to those exported with £ 10 and £ 12 trios.

HOW TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL FANCIER.

Think deeply, Study Pedigree, Act Promptly.

Every would be successful poultry breeder must be a man of ardent purpose.

2. His first endeavour must be to get an adequate grasp of the art of poultry breeding.

3. He must do nothing on the lines of mere assumption. Assuming this and that to be right will ruin his results nine times out of ten.

4. The main foundation upon which he must work is the principle that like produces like.

5. The next is that strain, blood, pedigree, is at the bottom of everything.

6. A bird that is chockful of pedigree—that is, bred from a long line of first-class winners—may fail to be a show bird but, *given a chance with a suitable mate*, the latent properties in it may produce wonderful results.

7. A bird without pedigree may, in its outward looks, be a presentable fluke, better than another in appearance of first-class pedigree, but the astute breeder will always use the latter in preference to the former.

8. The breeder must think, think, and think and be ever thinking and acting.

9. Never mate together birds with two faults. Nothing but disappointment can possibly come out of such a proceeding.

10. Never mate by mere cost value. The cost is nothing. It is entirely a question of birds and breeding.

11. Learn to discriminate points to a hairsbreadth. The nearer you get the better will be your results.

12. Get to know the important points of your breed, which points carry the first and heavies weight in numbers, and mate for that before you mate for minor points.

13. Never mate birds you know nothing about either on the score of points or pedigree.

14. Rear a winner as well as hatch it. Hatching a bird merely to let it die is a fool's game.

15. Do not breed from worthless stock and expect a champion.

16. Nor must you expect every chicken to be a flyer.

17. Remember that thousands are breeding against you, and each breeding as many chickens, or more, than you are.

18. Be satisfied at first if you produce one good one that can hold its own.

19. Be not disheartened with failure. If you do, you will never make a successful fancier,

20. Try again and again but always more thoughtfully and shrewdly than before. Remember, and copy, Bruce and the spider.

21. Do not attack the merits of other fanciers' birds because yours cannot beat them. It looks bad and at once proclaims you a novice.

22. Rear your birds with as much kind attention and thoughtful energy as you would your own children.

23. Do not throw your pence, shillings and pounds away on profitless stock, but keep your money banked till you have stored away enough to enable you to start well.

24. Do not expect to buy good stock for nothing

GUARD AGAINST SOFT EGGS.

Shell and Grit Necessary.

Quite recently we were on a Poultry Farm which had been troubled much by hens laying many soft eggs. We made a few enquiries and we found that the hens, whilst being given a fair amount of grit, did not get so much shell material as we thought they should be having.

Poultry keepers should not forget that the lack of shell means not only soft-shelled eggs, but also fewer eggs. If a hen does not get enough shell material she cannot produce eggs. Shell and grit are as essential as food. If a hen gets food enough to make 100 eggs, and only enough shell for 75, she will only lay 75. This was shown in an experiment conducted at the Kentucky Experimental Station. A pen of birds that received no mineral matter laid an average of 34·5 eggs per bird during the experiment. A pen receiving grit alone laid an average of 39·7 eggs per bird, while the pens receiving oyster shell or limestone averaged from 53 to 61 eggs per bird.

Not only did the birds receiving no mineral lay fewer eggs, but the shells for those they did lay were evidently secured at least partially from the mineral reserve in their own bodies. This meant a general decrease *in the mineral content of the body* and a lowering of the general vigour of the hens. Also, more of the hens died in the pen receiving no mineral supplement.

This indicates clearly the need of some form of shell-making material before the hens all of the time. It may be kept in small wall hoppers, or in separate compartments of the regular mash hoppers. The cost of such material for each hen for a year is so small that it is insignificant in the total feeding expense.

The material perhaps longest used to supply this need is crushed oyster shell, and it still continues to be the most popular, although ground limestone and a few special shell-making materials are also used.

THE VALUE OF A CHICK.

A farmer was reproving his three years old son.

"Ezry," he exclaimed, "quite pointin" that ther gun at your little brother! Hit might go off and kill one of them chickens he's playin' with."

? ? ?

Questions under this heading are answered free of charge on this page.

Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK, C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".

Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

Mr. N. *Hyderabad.*—I agree with your plans and think you have put up a very sound layout for 200 laying birds but you have omitted one big item. Where do you propose to obtain your yearly stock from? If you wish to mate your own breeding pens and hatch also rear from the pick of your own stock you will need a lot of room for this. At least 1 bigha for the former and ½ bigha for the latter. If you have no more ground available I suggest you work with only 2 big laying houses putting 100 in each and the 3rd plot split up for breeding purposes. Each of the big runs will take 120 birds without undue crowding. On the score of points or pedigree.

Mrs. W. *L. T. Estate.*—The reason your youngsters are dwindling and showing the symptoms they do is due to avian tuberculosis or "going 'light." Firstly the feeling is wrong. 2nd the soil is not suitable if it gets sodden and I would suggest you take good earth from some other site raising the land in the run to about 1/ foot above the level of the surrounding ground with a drain on all 4 sides. Turf it if possible. As for feeding I suggest a dry mash as follows: 1 part Biscuit meal, 1 part Maize or Gram Meal, ½ part Meat Meal (or fine ground MEBO), 1 parts Ground oats ½ part Barley Meal, 4 Good wheat bran. Keep the hoppers open from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. and from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. Give about 1 oz. mixed grain preferably 1 part cracked maize 2 parts wheat 1 part bajra at daylight and again just before roosting. It would not be a bad plan to give a little cod-liver-oil to the birds until they are looking better as it will assist in saving some that are not already smitten. Take away all sickly birds and burn all corpses.

Mr. T. *Lahore.*—I am afraid your sex linking was not a success owing to the fact that you mated wrong. A Lt. Sussex on R. I. Red will not accomplish anything in sex linking but had you have mated a R. I. Red to Lt. Sussex you would have got male chicks a silver colour and all pullets red or buff. Light Sussex males will not sex link.

Mr. De'C. *Baroda.*—Your youngsters were hatched rather late so I do not see anything to stop you bringing them on quicker than usual only be careful of undue forcing. From the mash formula take away half the amount of bran. 1 part biscuit meal added would improve the mash balancing. To the grain ration I would suggest adding cracked maize 1 part to 6 parts of the remainder i.e., 1 in 7. Normally your birds should start to lay in September.

Mr. H. *Binodpur.*—I am afraid from the discription given I cannot diognose the case and it would be only possible to give you some kind of cure if I knew the cause of death. This is only possible by post mortem examination which I am unable to undertake except on birds local. You might take one to the nearest vet, get him to examine the internal organs and report on them so as to give me an idea. Special note should be made of liver and the condition of food in gizzard. This from a newly died bird.

Mrs. S. *Alipore.*—The sketch of the house is good enough to show what is wanted. The house will accomodate 10 birds with the nests placed as per sketch. The front should face South. The amount of run space should be about 100 square yards. Shape of run does not matter so long as the 10 square yards per bird is given. Allow of sufficient shade from the strong midday sun.

Miss. L. *Allahabad.*—Admitted your idea is purely as a hobby but why not try and make your hobby pay. The 3 years hens cannot be laying more than 60-100 eggs at the utmost. Are past being likely to be good for the show bench so why not get rid of them and make room for young and more profitable stuff? If my advice is asked I say kill or sell the lot as boilers and purchase a pen of say 6 minorca pullets and a male. Keep up with the times and rear young stock each year culling the old ones to make room for the youngsters

Mr. D. *Rishra.*—Your enquiry is similar to that of Mrs. E. in the May Gazette and I would suggest you adopt the formula given to her as you will surely still have your May number by you.

Mr.G. address unreadable) Of the breeds mentioned I should boil it down to the Wh Leghorn. Australorp. R. I. Red or Sussex. In that order. The former is mainly a layer but the others are all goods general purpose and will do well under the conditions you refer to. Books on most breeds are available from our Hon Editor so I suggest you write him direct.

Mrs. R. *Atilpara.*—If your difficulty in getting grains and meals local makes it expensive why not adopt the suggestion you make in your second para. You will find in the Gazettee advertisers of ready made meals at quite reasonable costs. You are saved the bother of buying from all sorts of places to say nothing of mixing etc. Better by far to deal with one source and send in to the Railway for delivery at a known time than to be running short of this and that to say nothing of quality. Write either Spratts or Thorleys and see what they can do for you.

Postal replies forwarded to Messrs Young, Wheddle, Pal and Mrs. Addy.